

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RETIRING CHAU-
TAUQUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE
MARK THOMAS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, for the past eight years, Chautauqua County government has been led by one of the singularly intelligent, committed and respected public officials in New York State. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to honor Mark Thomas, whose service as Chautauqua County Executive will be concluded on December 31, 2005.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Thomas traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of Chautauqua County.

Mark is the type of person who leaves a lasting impact on his community. For many years, as a candidate and as an elected leader, Mark's efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a permanent impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were and still are a staple in Chautauqua County. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work and issues that Mr. Thomas uncovered during his campaign and during his tenure.

A true testimony to Mark can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. His campaign was full of energy and enthusiasm. I have no doubt that good things are still to come from Mark; he is a truly dedicated and determined person.

As a state legislator from 1998 to 2004, I knew Mark Thomas well. Quietly, without a lot of fanfare, Mark Thomas trudged the halls in Albany working diligently for the reform of the Medicaid program, which has threatened to cripple county governments throughout New York State. In 2004, New York State began what is hoped to be a long process of providing Medicaid relief to local governments. No elected leader in New York State is more responsible for that success than is Mark Thomas.

I had the opportunity to get to know Mark even better in 2004, when we competed against one another in a primary election for the Democratic Party's nomination for this congressional seat. Throughout that campaign, I always said that if I couldn't win, I wanted Mark Thomas to win, because Mark is a true believer, someone who believes that government is in place to help people, and to help make one's area a better place to live, work and raise a family. During that campaign, I was consistently amazed at the level of respect that the people of Chautauqua County had for him. During my first year in Congress, Mark and I have worked together closely on a

number of projects important to Chautauqua County, and my respect for him, his dear wife Elaine and his family only continues to grow.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank Mark Thomas. Mark has shown me the way in Chautauqua County, and I will forever be grateful to him for that gift.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mark Thomas is one of those people and that is why I rise to honor him and his service to this community.

HONORING THE GOVERNMENT
STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH
YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Government Street Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 175th year.

Government Street Presbyterian Church has been a vital partner of the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama. The church was founded in 1831, and the present sanctuary was built in 1836. For 166 years, this congregation has been worshipping God from the same location. Designated a National Landmark, the oldest sanctuary in Mobile is one of the most beautiful buildings in the city.

True to its mission to glorify God, the congregation of the Government Street Presbyterian Church uses its resources and opportunities to provide hope, comfort, instruction, and inspiration to all people so that they may become followers of Jesus Christ.

For the past twenty years, the Government Street Presbyterian Church has lovingly served the people of Mobile through its Coffee Club and Meals on Wheels, providing 35,000 meals annually to the homeless and poor. Members are also actively involved through urban ministries, international ministries, Baytreat ministries, worship, education, and fellowship.

It is my sincere hope that the Government Street Presbyterian Church will continue to be such a source of inspiration, hope, and comfort to Mobilians for another 175 years, and I rise today to salute this congregation and the many contributions they have made toward the betterment of south Alabama.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE OF
EDWARD E. NICHOLS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Edward E.

Nichols of Purcellville, Virginia, who has served the town of Purcellville in some capacity for the last 55 years. During his dedicated service to the people of Purcellville and Loudoun County, Mr. Nichols served 20 years on the Purcellville Town Council, 8 years on the Planning Commission, 5 years on the Board of Zoning Appeals, as well as on numerous other advisory committees.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Nichols' contributions to the Purcellville community. Mr. Nichols's father opened "Nichols Hardware" which has been in business for 91 years. Even today Ed's son Ted is part-owner of the family business. Mr. Nichols and his wife Meg have raised two sons, one daughter, and are the proud grandparents of seven and also have one great granddaughter. Mr. Nichols should be commended on raising an exceptional family while continually remaining actively involved in his community. Today, at 86 years-old, Mr. Nichols continues to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and shows tremendous passion for serving the people of Purcellville.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
LUCAS SCOTT WAGNER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Matt and Kate Wagner of Columbus, Georgia, on the birth of their new baby son. Lucas Scott Wagner was born on December 15, 2005 at 1:29 PM, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Luke has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

HONORING KEN LASKER FOR HIS
CAMPAIGN TO BECOME CHAU-
TAUQUA COUNTY DISTRICT AT-
TORNEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Lasker, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the Chautauqua County District Attorney.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Lasker traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of Chautauqua County.

Ken is one of those people that leave a huge impact on his community. For many

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.